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**Marine geospatial information**

# Marine geospatial information

## Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on marine geospatial information. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the way forward, taking into consideration the importance of reliable, timely and high-quality marine geospatial information in supporting the administration, management and governance of the marine environment.

**Summary of the report**

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts, in its decision 6/108, recognized the need to consider the marine environment, namely, shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans, as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration and management of land, marine spaces and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States. Marine geospatial information will be needed to support the administration, management and governance of the marine and ocean environments to meet the demand for critical analysis when questions arise pertaining to the governance, management and coordination of seas, oceans and resources. Such needs include information on spaces for recreation, telecommunication and transportation and for natural resources yielding food, medicine, energy and minerals. The information gathered will play a vital role in measuring, monitoring and mitigating climate risk in seas and oceans and in supporting national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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In its report, the Secretariat provides information on the consideration given by the Bureau of the Committee of Experts to strengthening global geospatial information management, including with respect to addressing substantive issues on the marine environment through the establishment of a new working group, in order to ensure that marine geospatial information supports the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information in helping Member States to develop strategic priorities, make decisions and measure and monitor outcomes.